



# The Fertilizer Institute

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS NURSE TANK EXEMPTION**

### **Exemption Allows Nurse Tanks without Identification Plates to Remain in Service**

Washington, D.C. – The Department of Transportation (DOT) today granted The Fertilizer Institute’s (TFI) request for an exemption from certain requirements in DOT’s “Hazardous Materials Regulations.” Specifically, DOT approved TFI’s request for an exemption from a requirement that ammonia nurse tanks carry an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) identification plate, which are typically affixed to the tanks at the time of their manufacture.

In its application for an exemption, TFI indicated that its members have ample reason to believe that the nurse tanks, which may have lost their nameplates due to the ravages of time and weather, still meet DOT safety standards. As such, TFI requested an exemption from the nameplate requirement and expressed the industry’s willingness to work with DOT to demonstrate the safety of the tanks.

“As the winter months offer retailers the opportunity to get matters in order before the spring planting season, TFI is pleased DOT has arrived at this decision in such a timely manner,” said TFI President Kraig R. Naasz. “The applicants now stand ready to undertake the measures outlined by DOT in order to verify the safety of these tanks,” continued Naasz.

TFI is working with its affiliated state and regional associations as well as the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) regarding the potential for extending the exemption to other interested industry members. Given ARA’s previous involvement and TFI’s desire to see the

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maximum number of retailers benefit from DOT's decision, TFI, ARA and their affiliated state and regional associations will immediately explore including additional industry members as party to the exemption.

“ARA is pleased that TFI has taken the initiative on a very common problem for many of our members,” said ARA President and CEO Jack Eberspacher. “The ability of all retailers to comply with safety regulations in a timely manner is a priority for ARA. TFI's efforts will help retailers comply with important regulations before the spring planting season.”

In granting the exemption, DOT will require nurse tanks without the identification plate to be inspected and tested by doing an external visual inspection, thickness test and pressure test. DOT will also require nurse tanks to be retested and reinspected every five years. In addition, each owner of a nurse tank operating under the exemption must maintain a copy of the test report; a current copy of the exemption must be maintained at the facility where the nurse tank is tested and offered for transportation; and each nurse tank must be plainly and durably marked with the exemption number and with a unique owner's identification number.

TFI originally requested the exemption in March of 2004.

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*The Fertilizer Institute represents the nation's fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.*